

midnight, ensuring that every single thing in this bill has been looked over carefully to make sure that we got it right.

And we are getting it right tonight for the American people, for our economy, and for the future of our great country.

I yield to my colleague from Virginia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

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H.R. 3684

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I also want to, first of all, thank all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Senator SINEMA and Senator PORTMAN have taken the lead. I want to thank them both—and Senator PORTMAN for taking at least 40 seconds of my time to enumerate all of our colleagues who were part of this effort.

I also want to thank the staff and acknowledge, as he did, the incredibly important role the White House played. At some point in this process, the White House realized that they couldn't just support this initiative, but they actually had to own it, and they were intimately involved in all of the details, and it is something that I know they will share with all my Democratic colleagues.

I also want to thank the majority leader. He has given us the time we need to get here, to get a 3,000—close to a 3,000-page bill to this floor, this comprehensive. I know it has taken a little more time than, maybe, all of us thought, but the fact is we have been talking about this for 30 years under Democrats, Republicans—both political parties at various times over the last 30 years—because Senator PORTMAN is right. Other nations are now investing at a level much greater than ours. So this record of a \$550 billion investment in hard infrastructure over 5 years has never been done before.

Senator MANCHIN often pointed out, as we were sometimes feuding and fighting over some of the details, that no pothole ever decided it was only going to hit a Democrat or a Republican. It hit everybody's cars.

We all know we have got thousands of bridges that need to be repaired. We all know that, post-COVID, high-speed broadband is not a “nice to have”; it is a necessity. We all know too many Americans go without access to clean drinking water.

This legislation will be debated and, I hope, passed in a strong bipartisan way. We will show our country, and we will show the world that no country around the world can keep up with us when we make these kind of investments.

I thank my colleagues.

With that, I yield to my great friend, the Senator from Maine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

H.R. 3684

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, let me begin my remarks this evening by expressing my appreciation to Senators PORTMAN and SINEMA for their extraordinary leadership of our group, our bipartisan group, of 10 Senators, who have labored so hard to bring before the Senate the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

This legislation represents the most significant investment in our infrastructure since the construction of the Interstate Highway System. Think about that. For generations, for decades, we have talked about the need to rebuild our roads and our bridges, our airports, our seaports, our waterways, our water treatment systems, and, today, to expand high-speed internet access to Americans throughout our country no matter where they live—whether they are in the northern regions of Maine or an inner city neighborhood—and that is exactly what this legislation would do.

I want to just quickly give an example from my own State of Maine.

Maine has 315 bridges and nearly 1,500 miles of roads that are rated as being in poor condition. Now the State of Maine will have the funding that will enable it to make major investments in the repair and replacement of this critical infrastructure. I am particularly pleased that the legislation includes \$65 billion to expand access to broadband.

And I want to thank my colleague Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN, who worked so closely with me. We were partners in this endeavor, and this is going to make such a difference to students who are doing online courses, to seniors who want access to telemedicine, to individuals who are able to work from home, but none of that is possible without access to high-speed internet services.

I am very pleased to be part of this group, and I am also delighted to demonstrate to the American people that we can work across the aisle in a bipartisan way to achieve real results that matter to the people of this country.

I yield to the Senator from New Hampshire.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

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H.R. 3684

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I am very proud to be here with the rest of my colleagues to present this bill that will make the biggest investment in infrastructure, as Senator COLLINS said so well, since the Interstate Highway System back in the 1950s.

This is really an extraordinary work product that results from the leadership of Senators SINEMA and PORTMAN and from the cooperation of everybody on this floor. There were an equal number of Democrats and Republicans—a number who are not here tonight who have worked on this bill—the work of

committee chairs and ranking members in the Senate who have done so much to put together underlying bills that we used in moving this forward and, of course, all of the staff from our personal offices, from the Appropriations Committee, from all of the committees that worked on this bill.

As has been said, this is the biggest investment in infrastructure with \$550 million—billion in new spending over the next 5 years. It builds on annual appropriations. It is an investment in roads and bridges, in water and wastewater, and transit, the electric grid.

We have got to do this because right now we are investing less than our competitors—less than China, less than India, less than Europe; less than we were spending in the United States in the 1960s. And if we are going to stay competitive, if we are going to provide opportunities for the people in this country, we have got to make these investments.

As my partner in broadband said, if kids are going to have an equal opportunity for the future, then they need to have access to high-speed internet.

More important, I think, is the point that all of my colleagues so far have made, and that is that this bill shows that Republicans and Democrats can work together to address the needs of this country; that our government is not broken. We can make it work if everybody works together.

So I know we have a lot of work ahead of us to get this bill through the floor of the Senate and then through the House, and get the help out to the American people. But I know that in this Chamber we are committed to getting that done and to making sure that we make these investments to move the country forward.

So thank you, Mr. President.

I yield to my colleague from Alaska, Senator MURKOWSKI.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. KAINE). The Senator from Alaska.

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H.R. 3684

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, it is indeed a pleasure to be on the floor, even though it is a little bit late on a Sunday evening, but to be here with colleagues that we have spent probably more time with one another than we have with our families, our spouses, our roommates, and what have you. But we have been working to build a product not only that we are proud to stand behind but a product that I believe the American public will be proud of the work that we have put into this—work not just of this group but, again, the broader group of 22.

And also we recognize the very solid work that comes from our committees. We recognize all that was built at the committee level to help kick-start in so many different—in so many different—areas, but also to build the base of much of this infrastructure bill that we have in front of us today.